

IALBC Members

Governor's Designee: Honorable Connie Nass, Commission Chair
Indiana Department of Natural Resources Representative: Dan Bortner, Director of Indiana State Parks & Reservoirs
Lt. Governor Representative: Brian Blackford, Development Director at Indiana Office of Tourism Development
Indiana Historical Society Representative: William Bartelt
Postsecondary Education Representative: Dr. William Wiggins
Elementary/Secondary Education Representative: Dan Smith
Federal Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Representatives: Dr. Darrel Bigham, Joan Flinspach
Indiana Citizen Representatives: Jack Kroeger, Ray Robison, Jack Smith
State Representatives: Russ Stilwell, Suzanne Crouch, Tom Saunders, Dennis Oxley
State Senators: Tom Wyss, James Merritt, Richard Young, Jim Lewis
Commission Secretary: Melissa Miller

Educational Contest Winners

Essay

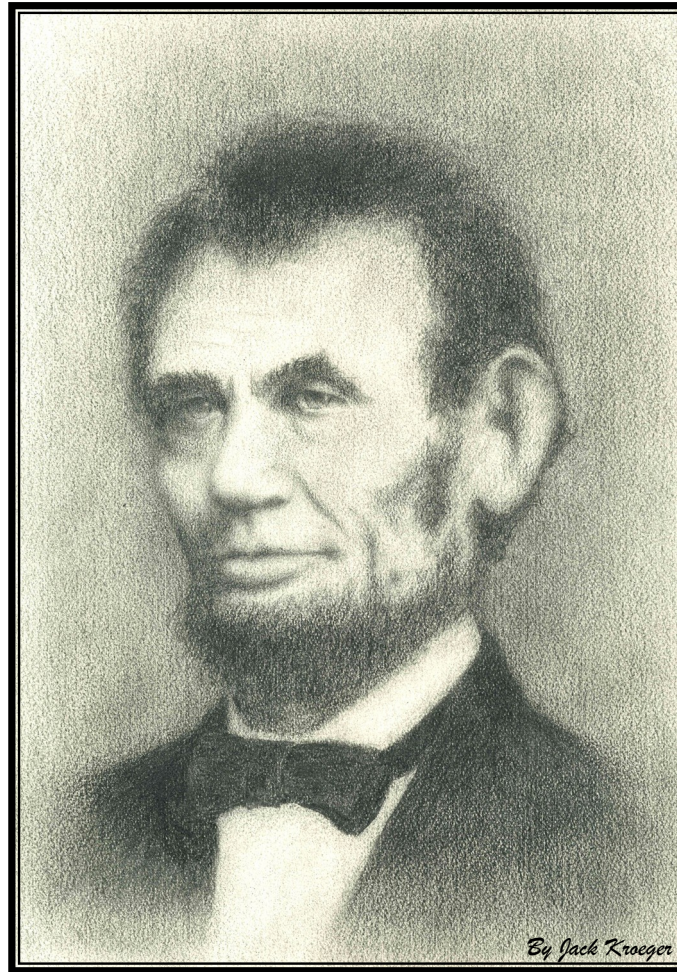
Kristen Schmeisser, 1st place
Aaron Stegemiller, 2nd place
Clint Grable, 3rd place

PowerPoint

Hrishikesh Deshpande, 1st place
Nathan Stegemiller, 2nd place
Helen Jesse, 3rd place

Art

Ashley Burns
Jenessa Hasty
Jacquelin Hersberger
Jake LaFever
Luke Majors
Olivia Malone
Anna Marcou
Peyton Miller
Corinne Racine
Luciano Raffa
Cameron Thompson
Blake Witchie



“I was born in Kentucky, raised in Indiana, reside in Illinois . . .”

This is an excerpt from Abraham Lincoln's speech to the One Hundred Fortieth Indiana Regiment on March 17, 1865—less than a month before his death.

Indeed, in Indiana Lincoln grew from a boy of seven in 1816 to a man of twenty-one in 1830. In Spencer County, Indiana, the future President suffered great sorrow with the deaths of his mother and sister, but also enjoyed the affection of his stepmother who encouraged his love of books and his self-confidence. Here in Indiana, young Lincoln received most of his schooling and educated himself by constantly learning from books and from people he met. Here he worked hard physically and developed an ambition for a life different from his father's. In Indiana, Lincoln first read the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and books on American history. Moreover, here he began to understand the power of crafting words to influence, entertain, and inform others. Finally, Lincoln surveyed the vastness and diversity of America during a flatboat trip to New Orleans begun on Indiana's Ohio River bank.

On this, the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth, the people of Indiana celebrate with pride the significant role our state played in shaping the character of our greatest American President.

Lincoln Bicentennial Birthday Bash

February 12, 2009



Program

Noon to 1:00 p.m.

North Atrium
Indiana State House

Displays

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

South Atrium
Indiana State House

www.IndianasLincoln.org

Lincoln Birthday Celebration Program

Procession

Presentation of Colors

*Military Department of Indiana, Ceremonial Unit Color Guard
Led by Chief Warrant Officer Craig Hoeverner*

Pledge of Allegiance

*Led by Kristen Schmeisser, New Castle Chrysler High School,
New Castle, Ind.*

The Star Spangled Banner

Heritage Hills High School Jazz Choir, Lincoln City, Ind.

Introduction of Guests and IALBC Legacy Project Overview

IALBC Chair Connie Nass

Keynote Address

Governor Mitch Daniels

Presentation of Awards

*Governor Mitch Daniels; IALBC Chair Connie Nass; and Dan Smith,
IALBC Education Committee Chair*

High School Essay Awards
Middle School PowerPoint Awards
Elementary Art Awards

Presentation of Abraham Lincoln Lilac Plant and 2009 Art Contest Calendar

IALBC Chair Connie Nass

Lincoln’s Legacy & the Law

Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall Shepard

Presentation of Quilt Hanging to Capt. Patrick D. Hall, Commanding Officer, U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln

*Created by Scrappers Bee, Indianapolis Quilters Guild members:
Tracy Barta, Catherine Carvey, Lynne Colyer, Marilyn Hamilton,
Mary Kay Horn, Andrea Kriech, Judy Pleiss, Diane Schrim and Linda
Turner.*

Abraham Lincoln Presentation

Dean Dorrell, Lincoln Presenter

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Heritage Hills High School Jazz Choir, Lincoln City, Ind.

“Lincoln’s Legacy to Indiana”

High School Essay

First Place Award

Kristen Schmeisser

New Castle Chrysler High School
New Castle, Indiana

A well-dressed, pigtailed little girl sees a penny in the road and picks it up. Looking at the shiny copper face, she holds the coin up to her mother and asks who the man is. With a genial smile, her mother explains that the face on the penny is the face of Abraham Lincoln, the man who saved the nation and brought freedom for the African Americans. Satisfied, the girl grasps her mother’s dark hand. With the other hand, the child fingers her mother’s keychain, complete with a plastic American flag and pewter Purdue emblem, utterly unaware how much she owes the man on the penny.

Lincoln, in helping keep the nation together and freeing the slaves, left a bright and unforgettable legacy that humanity reveres and that parents retell to their children. However, Abraham Lincoln has several other vital legacies, specifically in Indiana. One of these lesser-known legacies in Indiana is the state’s only land grant institution, Purdue University.

Abraham Lincoln forever changed education in the signing of Justin Smith Morrill’s land grant bill in 1862. Up until that time, American universities greatly resembled their European sister schools, available only for upper class males interested in religion and government. The Morrill Land Grant schools changed this concept by making postsecondary education much more accessible to ordinary men through the vehicle of the federal government. The Morrill Act, in fact, was an act of Congress “donating public lands to the several states... which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and mechanic arts.”

Lincoln had an unquenchable love of learning that inevitably overflowed into signing the Morrill Act. Although Lincoln himself lacked formal education, lost his mother at an early age, and worked hard on the family farm throughout his childhood, he ravenously pursued knowledge. Through independent study, Lincoln mastered trigonometry, analyzed law, and memorized Shakespeare. He even studied Euclidean geometry as a “mental exercise” while serving in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The land grant institutions have proved a lasting and accurate legacy of Lincoln’s desire for learning. In the 146 years since Lincoln signed the act, our country has established 105 land grant institutions, including Indiana’s Purdue University, that have collectively awarded over 20 million degrees. These schools award one-third of all bachelor and master’s degrees and together produce half a million graduates each year. According to past Purdue President Martin C. Jischke, “Land-grant universities have always been among the leaders in inclusion... [and] the first to advance educational opportunities for women and minorities.” Therefore, land-grant schools such as Purdue have reflected not only Lincoln’s love for education, but also his desire for equality for every man and for oneness for our nation. In the state of Indiana, Purdue University is Lincoln’s most tangible legacy.

Abraham Lincoln has a wide and varied legacy in Indiana and in the nation as a whole. Not only did he keep the nation together during a turbulent era, but he also helped start the establishment of equality for African-Americans and minorities everywhere. Moreover, he left an academic legacy, the Morrill Land Grant universities, which are still educating America’s young people today so that they can be the great leaders of tomorrow.

Exhibitors

Indiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission

Indiana State Museum

Indiana Historical Society

Indiana Department of Education

Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Indiana Supreme Court

Indiana Office of Tourism Development

IDNR Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology

IDNR Division of State Parks & Reservoirs

Spencer County Visitors Bureau

Lincoln’s Journey of Remembrance

Lincoln Amphitheatre

Thomas Kennedy’s Life of Lincoln Painting

Underground Railroad Quilts from Spencer County

Indiana Lincoln Highway Association

Indiana War Memorials Commission

Indiana State Library

Indiana State Archives

Indiana Historical Bureau

Indiana Humanities Council

Scrappers Bee, Indianapolis Quilters Guild

Studebaker National Museum

Jack Kroeger Lincoln Portraits

*Lincoln Birthday Cupcakes provided by The Corydon Group

Education Contest Judges

Essay

Samantha Albert

Michael Cox

Stan Harris

Jim Makosky

Janet Weber

PowerPoint

Nancy Conner

Susie Highley

Dave Jennings

Emma Reed

Nicole Stump

Art

Jennifer Bond

Linda Gustafson

Kathy Kirkendorfer

Carolyn Schley

Beth Siminski